

WHAT'S Line

Alabama Public Library Service
Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

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Left to right—Hulen E. Bivins (1980–1987), Fara Zaleski (1987–2008), Helen Keller (statue), Dana Barlow (2008–2010), Ruth Evans (2010)

Regional Library “Firsts”

The Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (BPH) of Alabama has a notable history of “firsts” on a national standard. As a Division of the Alabama Public Library Service (APLS), BPH was relocated from the School for the Blind in Talladega to Montgomery in a newly constructed facility at APLS in 1978. The new facility was the “first” barrier-free functional library in the nation. Featuring curved walls, circular tables, and wide aisles designed to especially accommodate blind and physically handicapped patrons, the facility became the new national standard with a design concept promoted nationally by the National Library Service (NLS).

Alabama’s BPH library was the first to commission statuary to highlight the service clientele that it was charged with serving. This “first” was the creation of the statue of Helen Keller as a child and has, since dedicated in 1985, commanded a focal point in the BPH lobby. Complete with braille inscriptions on the book held in Helen’s lap, the statue may be enjoyed by the sighted and non-sighted alike. Today, the statue remains the only full sized, bronze statue of Helen as a child to be found anywhere in the world. *(Continued on page 3)*

Working with BARD

The Braille and Audio Reading Download site, better known as BARD, was created by the National Library Service (NLS) to provide thousands of books for free download to eligible readers within the NLS network of libraries. In order to access and play these books you need a compatible player that will play the protected format books produced by NLS. Commercially produced players including, the Victor Reader Stream by Humanware, PLEXTALK by Shinano-Kenshi Co., and Book Port Plus from the American Printing House for the Blind are available for purchase online. The NLS Digital Player, however, is free from the Regional Library.

To sign up for BARD, you must be a registered patron with NLS. Once this is verified with your Regional or Subregional Library, you will be accepted to begin unlimited downloads of NLS books and magazines. The following instructions will get you started.

- Go to: <https://nlsbard.loc.gov>
- Click the link to the BARD application instructions.
- Click the link to the BARD application.
- Fill out the application (name and address must match the Regional Library's information). Be sure to include a valid email address and the type of player to be used.
- Click Submit.

The system will alert you if information is missing from your application. Then, you wait for an email confirming your application. This process can take a day or so. If there is a problem with matches on the database information, your application will be rejected but this can be corrected with a telephone call to the Regional Library.

Once the process is complete you may begin downloading books and magazines by revisiting the BARD website at <https://nlsbard.loc.gov> using your email address and your password. You may search the catalog by author, title, keyword or category. Be sure to check out the special selections such as most popular books or recently added books. Searching magazines by title and date makes it easy to find your choice.

Once you have found your book (i.e., *Pride and Prejudice*) do the following:

- Select and download the book by clicking on the link that says download (showing the title and book number).
- You will be prompted to save or open--choose save (preferably to the desktop) . When you become more proficient you can save to a designated folder.
- Click save, then click enter when it asks for the file name.
- Next, locate the book on your desktop (or your designated file). In our example, it will say db Austen Jane Pride and Prejudice followed by the book number.
- Next, use the applications key (the key to the left of your control key on the right side of your keyboard) or right click if you are using a mouse.

- From this menu select Extract All.
- Follow the prompts through the extraction. When done, you will see two of the same titles on your desktop.
- Go to the second occurrence of the book title and highlight it, but don't open it.
- Using Control plus the letter C on your keyboard, or right click the title and select copy from the menu.
- Once copied, insert your thumb drive, or plug your cartridge into the computer using the cable provided. Select removable disk using whatever letter the computer has assigned.
- Open the drive. Use Control plus the letter V to paste, or right click and select paste from the menu. This will place your copy of the book onto your removable media.
- You are ready to use your player to listen to your selection.

If you are using a commercial player there is converting software available that makes downloading easier. The NLS Digital Talking Book Player does not use this software so you must use the manual instructions listed above.

Blank cartridges and storage cases can be ordered from:

American Printing House for the Blind www.aph.org or 1-800-239-1833
Adaptive Technologies (a division of Perkins Institute) www.perkins.org

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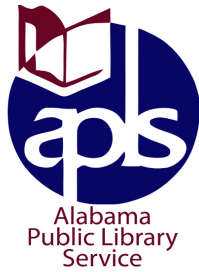
Regional Library "Firsts"

Another recent "first" for Alabama's Regional Library is the result of the appointment of Ruth Evans as the Head of the BPH Division of APLS. With this appointment, there are on site at APLS three former BPH heads along with the present one. No other Regional Library for BPH services in the nation has, at the same time, had the experience and knowledge of four Regional Library supervisors to draw from concurrently. Alabama's BPH library staff has experience that rivals and perhaps exceeds the National Library Service in Washington DC. Most recently, Fara Zaleski has taken the reins, once again, as Head of BPH; steering the Division onward into the digital frontier.

We look forward to the next "first" for Alabama's Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

NLS SERVICE EXPECTATIONS

Library services for the blind and physically handicapped has come a long way since the enactment of the Pratt-Smoot Act in 1931. An outgrowth of this service provision is the biennial evaluation of our Regional Library services. This program compliance audit monitors services, public education, outreach, planning, policies and consulting with subregional libraries. Vickie Collins, NLS Network Consultant for the southern states, visited in late August. Her findings will be based on the publication REVISED STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES OF SERVICE FOR THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS NETWORK OF LIBRARIES FOR THE BPH, 2005 as developed by the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies, a part of the American Library Association.



**Regional Library for the
Blind and Physically
Handicapped
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Montgomery, AL 36130**

Free Material for
the Blind and
Physically
Handicapped

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WhAT's Line

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